

DEFENSIBLE SPACE, 2013

14 CCR, Division 1.5, Chapter 7 Fire Protection, Subchapter 3.,

Article 3. Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures

Amend § 1299.03. Requirements.

Defensible space is required to be maintained at all times, whenever flammable vegetative conditions exist. One hundred feet (100 ft.) of defensible space clearance shall be maintained in two distinct "Zones" as follows: "Zone 1" extends thirty feet (30 ft.) out from each "Building or Structure," or to the property line, whichever comes first; "Zone 2" extends from thirty feet (30 ft.) to one hundred feet (100 ft.) from each "Building or Structure," but not beyond the property line. The vegetation treatment requirements for Zone 1 are more restrictive than for Zone 2, as provided in (a) and (b) below. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's "Property Inspection Guide, 2000 version, April 2000," provides additional guidance on vegetation treatment within Zone 1 and Zone 2, but is not mandatory and is not intended as a substitute for these regulations. This publication may be found on the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) website at:

http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_engineering_view?guide_id=8

(a) Zone 1 Requirements:

(1) Remove all dead or dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and pine needles from the Zone whether

such vegetation occurs in yard areas around the "Building or Structure," on the roof or rain gutters of the "Building or Structure," or any other location within the Zone.

(2) Remove dead tree or shrub branches that overhang roofs, below or adjacent to windows, or which are adjacent to wall surfaces, and keep all branches a minimum of ten feet (10 ft.) away from chimney and stovepipe outlets.

(3) Relocate exposed firewood piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely covered in a wind-blown ember resistant material. Examples include: A secured tarp, canvas, or building material. Woodpiles in Zone 1 must also have 10 feet (10 ft.) of non-combustible surface clearance, including bare mineral soil, on the exposed sides. An exposed side is one not abutting a non-combustible vertical surface.

(4) Remove flammable vegetation and items that could catch fire which are adjacent to or under combustible decks, balconies and stairs.

(b) Zone 2 Requirements:

(1) In this zone create horizontal and vertical spacing among shrubs and trees using the "Fuel Separation" method, the

1 "Continuous Tree Canopy" method or a combination of both to
2 achieve defensible space clearance requirements. Further guidance
3 regarding these methods is contained in the State Board of
4 Forestry and Fire Protection's, "General Guidelines for Creating
5 Defensible Space, February 8, 2006," incorporated herein by
6 reference, and the "Property Inspection Guide" referenced
7 elsewhere in this regulation. The "General Guidelines for
8 Creating Defensible Space" may be found on the Board's website
9 at:

10 http://www.fire.ca.gov/CDFBOFDB/pdfs/Copyof4291finalguidelines9_2
11 [9_06.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/CDFBOFDB/pdfs/Copyof4291finalguidelines9_2).

12
13 (2) In both the Fuel Separation and Continuous Tree Canopy
14 methods the following standards apply:

15
16 (A) ~~{reserved}~~ Dead and dying woody surface fuels and
17 aerial fuels shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally
18 consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and
19 small branches, shall be permitted to a depth of 3 inches.

20
21 (B) Cut annual grasses and forbs down to a maximum height
22 of four inches (4 in.).

23
24 (C) ~~All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of ten feet~~
25 ~~(10 ft.) of clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all~~

~~directions.~~ All wood piles must have 10 feet (10 ft.) of non-combustible surface clearance, which can include bare mineral soil, on the exposed sides. An exposed side is one not abutting a non-combustible vertical surface.

(c) For both Zones 1 and 2:

(1) "Outbuildings" and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have the following minimum clearance: ten feet (10 ft.) of clearance to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional ten feet (10 ft.) around their exterior.

(2) Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation to bare mineral soil and avoid the use of heavy equipment in and around streams and seasonal drainages. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion, especially on steep slopes. Keep soil disturbance to a minimum on steep slopes.

Note: Authority cited: Public Resources Code Sections 4290 and 4291.
Reference: Public Resource Code Section 4291, Health and Safety Code Sections 18908 and 18917.